

**To:** Webster, Susan[webster.susan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Crossland, Ronnie  
**Sent:** Thur 8/6/2015 7:54:57 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Update 20150806 12:45

**From:** Kirkland, Robert  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:54 PM  
**To:** Restivo, Angela; McCasland, Mark; Mlachak, Shirley; Atkins, Blake  
**Cc:** Brown, Jamesr; Garcia, David; Crossland, Ronnie; Kosfischer, Angel; Taylor, Patricia-A  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Update 20150806 12:45

Working on a map with the DW Intake info, Animas River, Spill Location (Gold King Mine, near Cement Creek, Silverton, Colorado). I think I will have to estimate the travel downstream based on the time it is expected at Durango.

Robert Kirkland

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214-665-6798

"Here be dragons" Unknown author. A phrase used to fill the whitespace on early maps.

**From:** Restivo, Angela  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:40 PM  
**To:** Kirkland, Robert; McCasland, Mark; Mlachak, Shirley; Atkins, Blake  
**Cc:** Brown, Jamesr; Garcia, David; Crossland, Ronnie  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Update 20150806 12:45

FYI drinking water systems impacted.

**From:** Romero, Nora, NMENV [<mailto:Nora.Romero2@state.nm.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:39 PM  
**To:** Restivo, Angela  
**Cc:** Martinez, Joe, NMENV; Stephanie.Stringer\_state.nm.us  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Update 20150806 12:45

Angela

Below is the list of water systems that are affected by this spill. Wayne Jeff the compliance officer is working with the systems on the matter.

We will keep you aware of the clean-up progress.

Nora

**From:** Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:44 PM  
**To:** Tongate, Butch, NMENV; Flynn, Ryan, NMENV; Kendall, Jeff, NMENV; Majure, Allison, NMENV; NM EOC, DHSEM; Hogan, James, NMENV; Roberts, Kathryn, NMENV; Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV; king, jack, NMENV  
**Cc:** Stringer, Stephanie, NMENV; Cudia, Chris, NMENV; Jeffs, Wayne, NMENV; Martinez, Joe, NMENV; Pepe, Dennis, DHSEM; Yurdin, Bruce, NMENV; Horowitz, Ruth, NMENV; Kieling, John, NMENV; Romero, Nora, NMENV; Jeffs, Wayne, NMENV  
**Subject:** Gold King Update 20150806 12:45

The water systems that utilize the Animas River for drinking water systems are:

- [REDACTED] Aztec Domestic Water System, NM3509824
- [REDACTED] Farmington Water System, NM3510224
- [REDACTED] Lower Valley WUA, NM3510324 (can purchase water from Farmington)
- [REDACTED] Morningstar Water Supply System, NM3510524
- [REDACTED] Northstar MDWCA, NM3520024
- [REDACTED] Southside Mutual Domestic Water, NM3509924 (purchases water from Aztec)
- [REDACTED] Upper La Plata WUA, NM3566924 (can purchase water from Lower Valley)

Wayne Jeffs (DWB) reports that he "...called all of the water systems on your list below – except Northstar and I understand that the operator (Dwight James) already is aware of the spill.

I understand that Farmington raw water intakes are closed, Lower Valley raw water intakes are closed, Morningstar is monitoring inlet pH, Southside is aware; I left messages with all of the other water systems on the list."

### **August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release**

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

Sent from my iPhone

Thomas Skibitski

Emergency Response Operations Chief

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